

**From:** davidcombsmayor [davidcombsmayor@aol.com]  
**Sent:** 1/26/2018 1:47:24 PM  
**To:** Whichard, Jordan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=74dd092206c444068d5e418de007776a-djwhichard]  
**Subject:** [External] Re: FW: Governor Cooper Announces Fund for Clean Energy and Rural Development; Urges Continued Scrutiny and Accountability as Pipeline Moves Forward

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Jordan thanks for your email - have a great weekend

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Whichard, Jordan" <Jordan.Whichard@nc.gov>  
**Date:** 1/26/18 1:41 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Whichard, Jordan" <Jordan.Whichard@nc.gov>, "Alcoke, Merrie Jo" <merriejo.alcoke@nc.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Governor Cooper Announces Fund for Clean Energy and Rural Development; Urges Continued Scrutiny and Accountability as Pipeline Moves Forward

Folks,

Wanted to be sure you had seen the below two press releases from today. The top is from our office, and the second is from DEQ, re: the ACP's permit approval.

Thanks for your support of Governor Cooper, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Jordan

D. Jordan Whichard IV

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Office of Governor Roy Cooper

20301 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

919-814-2036 direct

919-818-6085 mobile

[jordan.whichard@nc.gov](mailto:jordan.whichard@nc.gov)



Office of the Governor

[governor.nc.gov](http://governor.nc.gov)

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**From:** Governor Cooper's Press Office [mailto:govpress@nc.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 12:54 PM

**Subject:** Governor Cooper Announces Fund for Clean Energy and Rural Development; Urges Continued Scrutiny and Accountability as Pipeline Moves Forward



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR **ROY COOPER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2018

Contact: Ford Porter

Phone: 919-814-2100

Email: [govpress@nc.gov](mailto:govpress@nc.gov)

### **Governor Cooper Announces Fund for Clean Energy and Rural Development; Urges Continued Scrutiny and Accountability as Pipeline Moves Forward**

**RALEIGH:** North Carolina will work toward a renewable energy future and rural economic development with the establishment of a new fund, Governor Roy Cooper said Friday.

The announcement comes as the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues the requested water permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP).

ACP and its partners Dominion Power and Duke Energy will put \$57.8 million into the fund to be used for environmental mitigation initiatives such as reducing the carbon footprint and expansion of renewable energy sources. Funds can also be used to ensure that local communities benefit economically from the pipeline by having have access to natural gas from the pipeline. ACP did not guarantee affordable access to natural gas for communities through which the pipeline will run. Details on how the fund will operate are underway.

"My goal for North Carolina is complete reliance on renewable energy, which builds a cleaner environment and a stronger economy," Gov. Cooper said. "During the time it takes to get us to a full renewable energy future, we will still need to rely on other fuels as we move away from the pollution of coal-fired power plants."

The memorandum of understanding on the new fund can be read [HERE](#).

DEQ is committed to an added level of protection for communities. The agency will carefully monitor construction and operation of the pipeline, which has conditional water permits from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the state of West Virginia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, in order to address any potential safety risks. ACP will be required to mitigate any damage from the construction.

"Preserving clean water and the integrity of the communities where this pipeline is constructed will be a priority," Gov. Cooper said. "I have asked our environmental regulators at DEQ to hold this project accountable and to continue to insist on clean water, effective sedimentation control and high air quality along the path of the construction. At the same time, I am continuing to push for more renewable energy, especially solar and wind."

DEQ required ACP to submit additional application information on five occasions. Based on information received in that process and feedback during a public comment period, the water permit includes numerous stringent requirements including stream and wetland monitoring and protection, well testing, regular inspections, and construction stormwater protections.

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Governor Cooper's Press Office

**From:** Bridget Munger [<mailto:bridget.munger@ncdenr.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 12:32 PM  
**Subject:** State issues major water permit for Atlantic Coast Pipeline project

Governor

Roy Cooper,



Secretary

Michael S. Regan,

---

Release: IMMEDIATE  
Date: Jan. 26, 2018

Contact: Bridget Munger  
Phone: 919-807-6363; 919-207-7786

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#### **State issues major water permit for Atlantic Coast Pipeline project**

The state Department of Environmental Quality on Friday issued a [401 water quality certification](#) that is required for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project to move forward in North Carolina. Projects that will impact wetlands, buffers or waterways must obtain this certification.

Since Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC applied for the 401 certification in May 2017, staff with DEQ's Division of Water Resources have conducted an exhaustive review of the project plans, requiring the company to submit additional application information on five occasions. As part of the review process, DEQ held a public comment period June 16–Aug. 19, 2017 and public hearings in Fayetteville and Rocky Mount.

“DEQ left no stone unturned in our exhaustive eight month review of every aspect of the 401 application,” said DEQ Secretary Michael Regan on Friday. “Our job doesn’t end with the granting of the permit but continues as we hold the company



accountable to live up to its commitments. Our efforts have resulted in a carefully crafted permit that includes increased environmental protections, while giving us the tools we need to continue close oversight of this project as it moves forward.”

Based on information obtained through the review process and public comment period, water resources staff drafted the final 401 water quality certification to include numerous more stringent requirements, including but not limited to:

- Stream and Wetland Monitoring: Upon restoration of temporary impacts, restored areas must be monitored for three years with photo documentation. DEQ may extend monitoring requirements.
- Work in the Dry: Unless an exemption is granted for a specific location, all stream-crossing construction activities must be conducted using best practices to divert water and limit potential sediment pollution in streams.
- Horizontal Directional Drill: To better protect the Neuse River and its riparian buffers, the project must use a horizontal directional drill for crossing the waterway.
- Documentation of Drilling Components: The composition and properties of drilling fluids and additives for each horizontal directional drilling crossing must be submitted to DEQ and will be available online for public access.
- Well Testing: Private well testing will be required before and after construction within 150 feet of the disturbed area or 500 feet from blasting areas. Testing after impacts must be conducted by an independent qualified groundwater specialist.
- Regular Inspections: DEQ water resources and erosion control staff will conduct monthly onsite inspections of pipeline construction activities.
- Construction Stormwater Protections: Though not required by state or federal regulations, the project will obtain coverage of and meet the requirements of the state’s construction stormwater permit for the entire construction corridor in North Carolina.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC must still obtain from DEQ an air quality permit for a compressor station in Northampton County, two general stormwater permits for impacts in Nash and Cumberland counties, an individual stormwater permit for a contractors’ work yard in Cumberland County and approval of the erosion and sediment control plan for the northern segment of the pipeline’s North Carolina route. The erosion and sediment control plan for the southern segment was approved in December. At the federal level, the project must also obtain a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for stream and wetland impacts.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead regulatory agency for natural gas pipeline projects. That agency approved the Atlantic Coast Pipeline October 13, 2017 following a public review of the project’s environmental impact statement and a public comment period.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline project will include 604 miles of new natural gas pipeline and related facilities as it runs from West Virginia to southeastern regions of Virginia and North Carolina. For more information on the pipeline project or to review the 401 permit and approved erosion plans, please visit: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-land-resources/acp>.

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